

however, arose including heavy rains and cyclonic winds, which made the current in the Red River so strong that boats carrying French prisoners to Viet-Tri could not proceed up the Red River. (On the other side, the roads in Northern Viet-Nam were flooded and the Democratic Republic prisoners could not be brought to Viet-Tri from the camps inland. There were other complaints and counter-complaints such as inaccuracy of lists, difficulties in actual transfer of prisoners and inadequacy of staff, etc.

65. As the International Commission was specifically charged under Article 36(c) of the Agreement with the duty of controlling the operations of releasing prisoners of war and civilian internees and as the Commission was very anxious that the provisions of Article 21 should be fully implemented by the parties, the International Commission met the Joint Commission at PHU LO on the 25th August, 1954, and made the following proposal to the parties:

- (a) That the exchange must proceed with the utmost speed and must not be delayed for any reason other than those caused by physical and administrative difficulties;
- (b) That the transfer of prisoners in North Viet-Nam should be completed eight days after 26th August, 1954;
- (c) That the exchanges should be completed in Central Viet-Nam on the scheduled date, i.e., 31st August, 1954;
- (d) That discussions should be started immediately regarding exchange in South Viet-Nam, the scheduled date being 11th September, 1954;
- (e) That to improve the atmosphere and also to help expedite the release of prisoners of war and civilian internees, the two High Commands should send Joint Teams to inspect the camps and prisoners of both sides.

66. After considerable discussion, the parties accepted these proposals and the exchanges continued.

67. To supervise the operations of exchange, the International Commission sent out a mobile team to Viet-Tri.

68. On the 9th September, 1954, i.e., at the end of the time-limit laid down under Article 21(a), the position of the exchange of prisoners stood as follows:

(1) Figures supplied by the French Authorities:

- (a) Prisoners released by the French Union Forces ... 65,477